

## 14. COMMUNITY GARDENS

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Corporate Plan Output: Public Accountability	

The purpose of this report is to report back to the Board on the meeting held on 16 August, and to establish a process for progressing the Community Garden project with residents.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members will recall that in June the Board received an update report on Community Gardening and decided to continue to support existing groups involved in these types of projects. It also appointed Sally Thompson and Ingrid Stonhill as its representatives to champion the concept of community gardening in Shirley/Papanui.

At the meeting on 16 August, representatives from community garden projects were in attendance and contact names of those who could be available to assist projects have been obtained.

Within the Board area there are two possible opportunities to progress this concept further.

### POSSIBLE COMMUNITY PROJECTS

#### 1. Courtenay/Westminster Corner – Vacant Section

At the 29 March meeting, residents attended the Board meeting and suggested that the vacant section, held for road widening purposes, be developed as a community reserve, emulating Packe Street Reserve.

In its submission on the Annual Plan the Board requested funding to develop this section, including the waterway running along the frontage, into a community reserve. This section is held by the Council for road widening purposes. However, it was acknowledged at the Annual Plan meeting that it would be some time, if ever, before the land would be required and that in the meantime it should be put to some use. Any community project would need to acknowledge the status of the land.

It is proposed that a meeting be called with interested local residents to put before them the suggestion of developing the section as a community garden. What type of garden and development would be discussed and agreed with the residents who wished to be involved.

#### 2. Wai-ora Trust (INC) – Schools Education Programme Report

Attached is a copy of the proposals put forward by Wai-Ora Trust which includes a partnership support with the Community Board, with schools and community groups.

The above two projects offer different approaches to engaging the community in projects which link to Community Gardens and the Natural Step projects, including composting opportunities. Residents already involved in community garden projects from around the city are willing to provide advice and support to residents involved in new projects.

- Recommendation:**
1. That a committee with power to act be established, including the two champions, to progress the two projects outlined.
  2. That interest be sought from residents in Courtenay/Westminster area to undertake planning and development of the vacant section..
  3. That the committee hold further discussions with Wai-Ora Trust and Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board to identify how the Board can support the Schools Education Programme

**Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the officer's recommendation be adopted.